

The Corporation for National and Community Service is the Federal agency that engages more than 5 million Americans in service to solve community problems. In partnership with the King Center and community groups nationwide, the agency responds to a mandate provided in the legislation to organize the King holiday National Day of Service. Since the service day legislation was passed, we have seen interest grow from a handful of local events to well over 13,000 projects taking place this year in all 50 States.

Right here in Atlanta, we will be joining thousands of volunteers who will be packing food boxes for the hungry, rebuilding homes for the homeless, beautifying schools and serving in many other ways to commemorate the legacy of Dr. King. In doing so, people are following in King's footsteps, taking nonviolent action into their own hands to heal and mend the problems in our communities. That is what the National Day of Service is all about, engaging Americans in the joy of giving and inspiring them to see this holiday differently, not as a time to rest, but as an opportunity to share in the healing work of love.

Last year, in the midst of the Great Recession, 63.4 million Americans volunteered in some way in their communities. They decided that they wanted to make service a meaningful part of their everyday lives. And their efforts are making a difference. They are expanding economic opportunity, helping to fix our education system, protecting our environment, responding to the needs of our veterans and assisting in the wake of natural disasters.

To mark the 25th anniversary of the King holiday, we are issuing the "MLK 25 Challenge." We are calling on all Americans to honor Dr. King by pledging to take at least 25 actions during 2011 to make a difference for others.

The recent violence in Tucson is a sobering reminder that we as a nation have not yet fulfilled King's dream for our society, the building of a "Beloved Community," defined as a society based on simple justice that values the worth and dignity of every human being.

As the victims, families and our Nation struggle to recover from this tragedy, it is fitting that we look to the words of a nonviolent warrior who met aggression and hostility with the power of peace. "Darkness cannot drive out darkness," King once said, "only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

RECOGNIZING CHIEF DWIGHT BLANKENSHIP AND LONG ISLAND'S FIRST RESPONDERS

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the everyday heroes who make up Long Island's first responder community for the service they give us every day.

In the aftermath of disasters, we often ask the same questions: What went wrong? How could this have been averted? Who is to blame?

Yet, in the early hours of January 1, 2011, a host of heroic first responders demonstrated

how well-trained and dedicated experts could avert disaster and save lives. In this instance, the system worked. Mastic Fire Department Chief Dwight Blankenship and Assistant Chief Jim Mickert were the first to arrive on the scene of a gas leak and their immediate actions undoubtedly saved lives and property.

Upon seeing a gas leak spewing from out of the ground, Chief Blankenship immediately recognized the gravity of the situation and the need to act. First, he took action to prevent any action that could create a spark and ignite the gas. After taking action to secure the scene, he made a series of calls to coordinate the largest response Suffolk County has seen since the Pine Barrens fires of 1995.

Chief Blankenship's calls for assistance were answered by first responders from throughout Long Island. There are too many heroes to name, but the members of the Mastic Fire Department and the Mastic Volunteer Ambulance Company did so much to ensure the safety of the public. In all, more than 80 fire trucks and dozens of various departments joined in the effort.

While New Yorkers are loath to admit that anything good can come from across the river, we owe a debt of gratitude to John Stearns and his team with Industrial Propane and Recclamation of Sussex, New Jersey, for their quick and effective response.

I also want to highlight the Brookhaven Fire Marshals who responded to this potential disaster. Not only did the Town Fire Marshals ensure the safety of the public on January 1, but within three days of the incident they had completed their investigation and produced a comprehensive report about what had happened and how to avert a similar disaster.

Every day, our first responders train and take time away from their families, for that one call. On January 1, we are all so grateful that Chief Blankenship answered the call, because the difference is literally a matter of life and death. I am proud to represent so many dedicated first responders like Chief Dwight Blankenship and thank them for their continued service to our community.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY J. NEHASIL

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and celebrate the life of Larry J. Nehasil, a devoted husband, father, brother, son, uncle and Police Officer; and to mourn him upon his tragic passing in the line of duty at age 48.

Larry was born on March 15, 1962. He grew up in Livonia, Michigan and graduated from Winston Churchill High School in 1980. After serving with the Wayne County Sheriff's Office, Larry Nehasil joined the ranks of the Livonia Police Department as a Cadet in 1991. He was promoted to Police Officer in 1993 and worked in the Patrol Bureau, the Special Operations Unit and most recently, the Intelligence Bureau. Highly decorated in his 20 year career, Officer Larry Nehasil was a valued brother to his fellow officers and a lover of life whose company brought joy to all he knew. Aside from his diligent work ethic, Larry enjoyed numerous outdoor activities, working

out and watching his adored sons play hockey.

On January 17, 2011, Larry Nehasil laid down his life as he pursued a robbery suspect. This dedicated man gave his last breath, his last ounce of courage in service to the citizens he had dutifully sworn to defend and protect. He will be remembered as a father devoted to his family, especially his beloved wife, Linda, and his sons Adam and Aaron. The cherished son of Monica, Larry reunites with his father, the late Richard Nehasil, as he passes to his eternal reward. As a treasured brother to Cheryl, Craig and Lori, Larry Nehasil leaves a legacy in many nieces and nephews. Larry was a wonderful man with a ready smile, kind to all he encountered; and he will be truly and sorrowfully missed.

Mr. Speaker, during his lifetime, Officer Larry J. Nehasil enriched the lives of everyone around him. His End of Watch came far too soon and unexpectedly. As we bid farewell to this brave and wonderful individual, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and honoring his years of loyal service to our community and country.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,052,380,830,542.80.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,413,955,084,249.00 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

BANK OVERCHARGED MILITARY FAMILIES ON MORTGAGES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, admitting some "very big mistakes," banking giant JP Morgan Chase revealed today that they overcharged more than 4,000 active-duty military personnel on their home loans and foreclosed, in error, on 14 of them.

The Service Members Civil Relief Act of 2003 provides military personnel certain rights and protections as they enter active duty with respect to credit card interest rates, mortgage interest rates, and mortgage foreclosures. Per the provisions of this act both mortgage interest rates and consumer debt interest rates can be limited to 6 percent in some circumstances and foreclosures are not permitted.

While Chase has apologized for this "customer mistake," has agreed to send out \$2 million worth of refunds and has resolved all but one of the foreclosure cases, the strain put on the service members and their families through the bank's failure to comply with this act is inexcusable.